. JK-US040366



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of Tadashi SAO et al. Serial No New-Nat'l phase of PCT/IP2005/009451 International filing date: May 24, 2005 BRANCHING PIPE JOINT AND For:

AN AIR CONDITIONER PROVIDED:

THEREWITH (As Amended)

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

In accordance with MPEP 609 and 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants bring the references listed on the attached PTO-1449-Form to the Examiner's attention and request that they be considered and made of record in this application.

Japanese Utility Model Publication No. 04-97263 appears to disclose a refrigerant flow diverter having a bypass pipe.

Japanese Laid Open Publication No. 2752194 appears to disclose an air conditioner unit with switching valves.

Japanese 1998 Cooling and Heating Handbook, Air Conditioning Volume, Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Ltd. discloses information relating to installation cooling system. This publication discloses various Y-shaped branch pipes.

Prompt examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Reg. No. 32,383

Respectfully submitted,

GLOBAL IP COUNSELORS, LLP 1233 Twentieth Street, NW, Suite 700 Washington, DC 20036

(202)-293-0444 Dated:

(AP20 Rec'd PCT/PTO 30 MAY, 2006, 10,01)

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031
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			U.S. PATENT I			
Examiner	Cite	Document Number	Publication Date	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	
Initials *	No.1	Number - Kind Code ² (if known)	MM-DD-YYYY	Gille Ostalisis		
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	FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
		Foreign Patent Document		Name of Patentee or	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where		
Examiner Initials*	Cite No.1	Country Code ³ - Number ⁴ - Kind Code ⁴ (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Applicant of Cited Document	Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ^d	
/M.A./		JP-04-97263-U	08-24-1992	Nishinaka		No	
/M.A./		JP-2752194 B2	02-27-1998	Nagae		No	
/M.A./		JP-11-72189-A	03-16-1999	Furuta		Yes	
/M.A./		JP-11-304297-A	11-05-1999	Suehiro et al.		Yes	
/M.A./		JP-2000-161807-A	06-16-2000	Yoshii		Yes	
/M.A./		JP-2003-35469-A	02-07-2003	Takeda		Yes	

Examiner Signature	/Mohammad Ali/ (04/16/2008)	Date Considered	04/16/2008	

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trinsformat Office, Washington, D. (20.02), D. (20.01), D. (20

Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at <u>www.usoto.cov</u> or MPEP 901.04.
² Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ² For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the seaffaul number of the patent document. ² Mind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁸ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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Substitute t	or form 1449A/PTO				Complete taketowa Q O O O
				Application Number	PCT/5P2005/069454
			CLOSURE	Filing Date	International Date of May 24, 2005
STAT	EMENT BY	YΑ	PPLICANT	First Named Inventor	Tadashi SAO
				Group Art Unit	
(use as many she	ets as	necessary)	Examiner Name	
Sheet	2	of	2	Attorney Docket Number	DK-US040366

OTHER PRIOR ART - NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials *	Cite No.1	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the Item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	Translation (Yes or No)
		1998 Cooling and Heating Installation Handbook, Air Conditioning Volume, MITSUBISHI HEAVY INDUSTRIES, LTD.	No
	-		

Examiner	Date
Signature	Considered

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

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